

"PIMCH ME"

Scene Outside Church.

Original Gag By Victor Roberts Adapted from O. Henry's Book
Front Cloth. "Strictly Business"

When Scene Opens Policeman Walks across and looks at Church.

Pol. There has been someone robbing the Poor Boxes in this Church, and the Inspector told me to keep my eyes open and get the Thief. and I'll get him. Yes I'll get him.
(Exits)

(Enter Comic Carrying Shopping Bag)

Comic. I've lost a Halfpenny Somewhere. (Looks round Stage)

(Enter Bully)

Bully. Hullo Dogs Eody.

Comic. Meaning Me?.

Bully. Yus you. What are hanging tound here for?

Comic. Out doing the shopping for the wife. I'm going to getb some Greens.

Bully. Greens?

Comic. Yes the Wife's very Fond of Her greens.

Bully. You grest Mug you. Have you lost all your self respect.

Comic. No I've lost a Halfpenny. (Looks round Stage) And she wont half carry on when I tell her. She wont let me have any more Greens Now.

Bully. Do you know where Blokes like you ought to be. (Stage) Here.

Comic. No Sir.

Bully. Well you ought to be in Quad. (Bully walks away carrying Umbrella)

Comic. Quad?

Bully. Yus Quad, Prison, Chokey. Get me? (Bully exits)

Comic. Yes Sir., Could you lend me a Halfpenny . The wife will know Murder me when I get home, because I have'nt kept my hand on my Halfpenny. (Woman. Very Wild Looking)

Bully. As I was saying you ought to go to Prison. It makes a man of you.

Comic. I am a man although I've lost my Halfpenny. (Bully exits)

Bully. I've just come out of Prison.

Comic. (Edging away) .Go on!

Bully. Yes I've just done Ten years.

Comic. (Edging and Shivering) Go on.

Bully. (In his Ear) Manslaughter.

Comic. Yes Sir.

Bully. Weed Killer! Would you like some?

Comic. No thank you Sir.

Bully. Fine Place Prison. Ham and Eggs for Breakfast, treated Like a Lord, Manicure your Toenails for you.

Comic. Nice and Friendly. eh?

Bully. You dont want to hang about here, You want to Get in Do you hear. Get in.

Comic. Yes Sir.

Bully. Ham and Eggs for Breakfast, Treated like a Lord, take My advice and Get in. GET IN. (Goes to Exit) (Turns quickly) Now don't say I haven't told you. Ham and eggs for breakfast treated like a Lord. GIT IN! Dy'er 'ear me GIT IN!. (Exits)

Comic. Sounds alright. Ham and Eggs for Breakfast. I think I'll GIT IN (Imitates Bullys Speech) Yes I will GIT IN. I know what I'll do I'll pinch something and get into prison, have Ham and Eggs for Breakfast in the morning and when I come out, the wife will have forgotten all about me loosing my Halfpenny. (Looks Off Stage) Here comes a man, I'll pinch his umbrella.

(Enter Man walking very Smartly. carrying Umbrella)
As he passes Comic Takes umbrella from under his arm)

Man. (Turning Quickly) Oh I am awfully sorry old Chap. I had no idea that the umbrella was yours. I apologise, I apologise. (Raises His Hat and Bows and Exits)

Comic. (Watching him off with a Vacant Stare) Well I do'nt know But I'll GIT IN!

(Enter Woman. Very Wild Looking)

Woman. (Falling at Comics Feet) Oh Sir Kill me, I want to Die.

Comic. Oh, I'm in. Ham and Eggs in the Morning. (Rolls up his Sleeves)

Woman. Kill me. I want to Die.

Comic. Very Good Missus. Shall I strangle you. (Grabs her Hand)
Woman Screams)

(Enter Policeman)

Pol. Here! Here! What are you doing you Bully you, Ill-treating this Poor Woman. (Separates them and Looks at Woman) Why. if it isn't loose Liz the worst Woman in Thank You Sir, Thank you. (Shaking Comics Hand) I have been after this woman for months. This will mean promotion for me (Shaking his Hand) Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. (Bustles Woman off)

Comic. (Standing with his Mouth open) Well I do'nt know. But I'll Git in! I know what I'll do, I'll ring the Fire alarm Fetch the engines out, False alarm, and I'm in.

(Goes to Pross and Rings Bell, Returns stands C.)
I'm in alright now.

(Enter Birdie in Pajamas.)

Birdie. (Very Queenie) Who rang the Fire Alarm?

Comic I did Chase me. I mean Pinch me.

Birdie. Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Tingaling, aling. Puff, Puff, Puff. Thank you Sir Thank you. (Kisses Him) You have saved My Boy Friend and Twelve Gentlemen Rabbits from being Burned to death. Thank you Thank you Thank you. (Kisses Him) Whoops Dearie. (Does Back Kick, and Exits.)

Comic. (Standing Gasping) Well I do'nt know. But I'll GIT IN. I'll GIT IN'p. I know what I'll do, I'll pretend I'm drunk and disorderly, that ought to get me in alright, I'll have Ham and eggs in the Morning.

(Starts Singing in a Drunken Fashion) (Enter Policeman)

Pol. Come on Pull yourself together old Man.

Comic. I'm drunk. Look. I'm drunk and disorderly. (Knocks Pol Hat Off) Look I'm Drunk Pinch Me. Oh Go on.

Pol. You're alright, all you want is a few hours sleep, you'll soon be slright.

Comic. But I'm drunk I say. Pinch me.

Pol. What Pinch you for being drunk? Not likely. Why a Man who can get drunk on the Beer they sell in.....Does'nt deserve to be Pinched.No. He deserves the Victoria Cross. (Exits)

Comic. (Almost crying) Well I do'nt know.. But I'll Git In.
But why..... why should I want to go to a Nasty Prison.
I know what I'll do, I'll go to the little Church
Yonder, and Pray that the Wife will not Hit me too
Much when I get home. for loosing my Halfpenny.

(Takes Hat Off and walks slowly towards Church)

(Enter Policeman. watches him)

Pol. Ah! So this is the Fellow. (Grabs Comic) You are the
fellow the Inspector told me to keep my eyes open for
You are the One who has been robbing the Poor Boxes in
this Church.

Comic. No Not me Sir.

Pol. Yes you are. Come on.

Comic. (As he is being dregged off) I'm In! I'm In!

BLACK OUT.